

# Missouri State Flag

Show Me State • Capital: Jefferson City • Statehood: 1821

## Overview

Horizontal bands of red, white, and blue with the state seal at centre: grizzly bears, crescent moon, helmet and motto. Around them, a ring of stars for the states of the Union. It is both heraldic and patriotic, a bold roundel on tricolour stripes.

### Flag specifications

Adopted: 1913-03-22  
Designer: Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver  
Ratio: 7:12  
Horizontal red, white, and blue stripes with circular state seal in center.

#### Colors

   

#B22234 #FFFFFF #002D72 #FFD700

### Symbolism

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| red stripe   | Represents valor.                 |
| white stripe | Symbolizes purity.                |
| blue stripe  | Represents vigilance and justice. |
| 24 stars     | Mark Missouri as the 24th state.  |

### Historical timeline

- 1821: Missouri admitted as 24th state.
- 1913: Flag adopted after design by state senator's wife.

### Notable facts

- Known as the Show Me State for its reputation of skepticism.
- The flag includes both state and national symbols in its seal.
- The seal is centered on a horizontal tricolor of red, white, and blue.
- Two grizzly bears support the state shield.
- The bald eagle represents the United States.
- The crescent moon symbolizes growth and a new state.
- The flag was officially adopted in 1913.
- The design emphasizes Missouri's place within the Union.

### Seal deep dive

#### stateSeal

The Missouri state seal placed at the center of the flag.  
Meaning: Strength, vigilance, national unity, and Missouri's place in the Union

#### bears

Two grizzly bears standing upright as supporters of the shield.  
Meaning: Bravery, strength, and readiness to defend the state

#### crescent

A crescent moon positioned above the shield.  
Meaning: Growth, hope, and Missouri as a new and rising state at the time of admission

#### motto

The Latin motto 'Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto' displayed around the seal.  
Meaning: Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law

### **Vexillology notes**

Design type: Tricolor with central state seal

Complexity: 8/10

Readability: 5/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.